

A letter from Chely about "The Bumper Of My S.U.V.":

In June of 2003, I was one of many entertainers, athletes, and actors who traveled to the Middle East to entertain the troops. It was a moving, powerful experience as we were the first to enter Iraq in our effort to reach out to the troops to say "thank you" after the fall of a dictatorial regime. It was truly inspirational for me due to the fact that my brother had just served in Iraqi Freedom. Our tour missed him by 10 days. Chris is a Marine. And as I write this today, he is approaching his 15th year. Before he was deployed to the Persian Gulf, my brother sent me a small Marine Corps sticker. I proudly marched down to my vehicle in my garage and slapped that thing on the back. Most of my motivation for doing that was pride, but a bit of my reasoning was simply that I was scared. My brother was going off to War. I wanted to show my support of this fact. I have never in my lifetime had a bumper sticker of any kind displayed on a vehicle that I own. This seemed appropriate. So.....after I returned from that initial trip into Iraq, I was driving down a Main Drag there in Nashville called West End when something happened. Something obviously moving enough for me to drive straight home and write this song. What you will hear in the song "The Bumper Of My S.U.V." is the absolute truth. No exaggerations, no poetic license, and truly how it made me feel. I had no intention of ever playing this song for anyone.

So.....my band, crew and I took another trip to Iraq from September 13th-22nd, 2004. I had stumbled across this little home studio demo that I had done some 16 months earlier. Truthfully, I had forgotten about it, but was curious, so I burned a copy from the hard drive of my home studio. I played it for a couple of guys in my crew and a couple of other friends. They all commented that I MUST perform this song in the Middle East during our tour through Kuwait and Iraq. About 20 minutes prior to the first show of the tour, I sat down with my band leader and we wrote out a rudimentary chart. I didn't even sing it all the way through to rehearse it with him. I just said, "Have this ready to do....just you and I on stage". Well, we did it. And we continued to do it on every show. I had 3-4 hour autograph signings after each show and probably 7 out of 10 Soldiers, Shipmen, Airmen, Marines, Reservists and such asked me to "Please record "The Bumper OF My S.U.V." song. It would mean so much to us if you would. Thank you for that song and for acknowledging that we're not a bunch of warmongers. Many of us believe that we are doing great things, and furthermore.....we're just doing our jobs". I thanked them all for their kind words and promised that I would record it and send it back to AFN (Armed Forces Network) who, by the way, has been playing my home studio version a LOT ....all the more reason to send them a proper recording of this song.

I am in no way trying to exploit the situation in the Middle East by "writing a country song about it and cashing in. I will make certain that every radio station in Country Music has access to this. I am simply keeping my promise to about 4,000 young men and women who personally asked a favor of me.....and I humbly said yes. So, here it is. All of my profit made from the sale of the single will be donated to Stars For Stripes, the nonprofit organization that took us on this trip, and is committed to taking entertainment to the guys and gals who need it the most. Check out their website [www.starsforstripes.com](http://www.starsforstripes.com). Just wanted you to know the story behind the song, and I want to make it available to all who might be compelled to listen to it.

Thank you,

chely wright